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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PSC ALERT: REPORTS SURFACE
ON POSSIBLE FRAUDULENT GRAIN PURCHASES**

LINCOLN – The Nebraska Public Service Commission today alerted farmers and grain warehouse operations of a possible fraudulent grain purchasing scheme being conducted in the state.

Fifth District Commissioner Jerry Vap of McCook said reports received by the Commission suggest that an unlicensed grain dealer from a neighboring state is purchasing grain in Nebraska and defaulting on promises to pay.

The commissioner said Nebraska law is clear that individuals and companies acting as grain dealers must be licensed by the state through the Public Service Commission. As licensed grain dealers, most transactions by the grain dealers are covered by a required bond and state help may be available if the grain dealer fails to live up to the terms of the sale.

Grain warehouse operations must have either a state or federal license to operate in Nebraska, but all grain dealers must be licensed by the state.

“I can’t emphasize too much that anyone selling grain in Nebraska should be careful about whom they are doing business with,” Vap said. “A transaction through a grain dealer licensed in another state is not protected in Nebraska unless the grain dealer has a Nebraska license.”

Questions about whether a grain dealer is licensed to do business in Nebraska can be quickly answered. The PSC website at www.psc.state.ne.us carries a list of all licensed grain dealers. During regular business hours, the PSC's grain warehouse department also is available to confirm via telephone whether a grain dealer is licensed. The Commission may be contacted toll free at 1-800-526-0017 from within Nebraska.

Vap said owners of grain need to be extremely careful. "At this time of the year when harvest is in full swing, large amounts of grain are moving in all parts of the state. A responsible grain dealer will not object to someone who wants to check on the presence of a Nebraska grain dealer's license."

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